

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UN; AORG
SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON TIME STORY

FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE MISSION HAS PREPARED FOR USE IF
QUERIED ON JUNE 6 TIME MAGAZINE STORY ENTITLED "THE UNITED
NATIONS: THE GOOD LIFE BY THE LAKE":

Q - ARE THE VIES IN THE TIME STORY ABOUT "THE GOOD LIFE BY
THE LAKE" REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OPINIONS THE US MISSION HAS
ABOUT INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS IN GENEVA?

A - THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THAT ARTICLE REPRESENT A JOURNALISTIC
JUDGEMENT, AND NOT THE JUDGEMENT OF THIS MISSION.

Q - BUT A STATE DEPARTMENT "FACT FINDER" IN YOUR MISSION IS GIVEN
AS ONE OF THE SOURCES, AND IS QUOTED.

A - I CAN'T ATTEST TO THE PERSONAL OPINIONS OF A MISSION EMPLOYEE
OR AS TO WHETHER THEY WERE REPORTED ACCURATELY. WHAT I CAN SAY
IS THAT THE ARTICLE TO WHICH YOU REFER DOES NOT REFLECT ACCURATELY
THE VIEWS OF THE MISSION.

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Q - THEN WHAT ARE THE VIEWS OF THE MISSION ABOUT THE SALARIES'
QUESTION--ARE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS IN GENEVA OVERPAID
OR NOT?

A - 1. WE DO NOT YET HAVE A SATISFACTORY BASIS IN FACTS TO
PASS JUDGMENT ON THAT.
2. THAT WE THINK IS THE FIRST PROBLEM, AND THAT IS WHY THE

US ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE DECISION TAKEN IN THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY LAST YEAR TO HAVE THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION CONDUCT A FULL AND OBJECTIVE SURVEY OF THE SITUATION.

3. THE RESULTS OF THE COMMISSION'S SURVEY AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS, TOGETHER WITH A REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL, WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THE FALL.

4. THIS WE BELIEVE IS THE ONLY RELIABLE AND FAIR WAY TO GET AT THE FACTS AND TO PLACE THEM IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE.

5. WHEN THE FACTS ARE PRESENTED IN THIS WAY TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND TO THE APPROPRIATE BODIES OF THE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED, WE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO ARRIVE AT AN OPINION ABOUT THEM, AND I WOULD EXPECT THE US WILL MAKE ITS VIEWS KNOWN OFFICIALLY THEN AND THERE.

Q - WHY DO YOU LOOK AHEAD TO THE RESULTS OF THIS SURVEY WITH CONFIDENCE WHEN THE RESULTS OF THE EARLIER SURVEYS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN FAULTY AND WERE HOTLY DISPUTED?

A - WE FELT THAT AN ENTIRELY FRESH APPROACH IS BEING TAKEN, AND THE FIRST COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH NOT LIMITED TO MAKING JUST A FEW TECHNICAL COMPARISONS BETWEEN JOBS AND WAGES. WE ARE CONFIDENT THE RESULTS WILL BE FAIR, OBJECTIVE AND WILL REVEAL CORRECTLY THE REALITIES OF THE SITUATION.

WE INTEND TO PRESERVE AN OPEN MIND ABOUT THIS UNTIL THE FACTS ARE IN.

Q - WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA THAT THE COMMISSION IS USING THAT MAKES THIS SURVEY DIFFERENT?

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A - I WOULD HAVE TO REFER YOU TO THE COMMISSION ITSELF FOR THAT.

WHAT IS ON THE RECORD AND AVAILABLE IS THE DIRECTIVE WORKED OUT BY THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA RES. 31/193 OF 22 DECEMBER, 1976) AND, OF COURSE, THE STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION ITSELF. SORENSON

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